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The Kentucky Warbler

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE FALL SEASON, 1995, Fred M. Busroe	3
MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1995-1996, Blaine R. Ferrell	10
BIRDS OF MANCHESTER 1, MANCHESTER 2, AND BRUSH CREEK ISLAND, OHIO RIVER ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LEWIS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Rudy A. Gelis	20
A SURVEY OF WINTER BIRDS IN CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, Stephen J. Stedman and Barbara H. Stedman	25
FOURTH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, Lee K. McNeely, Secretary	32
FIELD NOTES	34
NEWS AND VIEWS	35

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editor B.R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.
Bowling Green 42101

Editorial Advisory Board

Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee Anne L. (Mrs. F.W. Stamm)
Lee McNeely
P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005

THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for this photograph of an adult Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in the company of a large flock of gulls at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (see Field Note section). Also, note the underwing pattern on the stretched wing.

THE FALL SEASON, 1995

FRED M. BUSROE

The fall weather was unusual, with August almost five degrees above normal, while central Kentucky had its coldest November since 1976 (six degrees below normal). However, good numbers of Sandhill Cranes were reported moving through the state. Shorebirds were scarce in western Kentucky because high water levels in the lakes reduced available habitat. Warblers appeared in fair numbers in mixed flocks across the state.

Abbreviations - AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Bar = Lake Barkley, Trigg County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; Bell = Bellevue, Campbell County; Ber = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County; BBL = Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; Che = Cherokee Park, Louisville, Jefferson County; CL = City Lake #1, Madisonville, Hopkins County; Cox = Cox's Creek, Nelson County; Dan = Danville, Boyle County; Dix = Dix Dam, Mercer County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; Hon = Honker Lake, Land Between the Lakes, Trigg County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LC = Lake Carnico, Nicholas County; LCK = Lick Creek, Boone County; LWB = Louisville Water Company Water Basin, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; MK = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; Meh = Mendhal Dam, Brackin County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Oko = Okolona, Jefferson County; OLF = Outer Loop Landfill, Jefferson County; ORB = Ohio River Basin, Jefferson County; OCP = Otter Creek Park, Meade County; Pea = Peabody Strip Mine Management Area, Ohio County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Pew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Pen = Pennyroyal State Resort Park, Christian County; PF = Porter Farm, Grayson County; QL = Quarry Lake, Fayette County; Riv = Riverfields Sanctuary, Jefferson County; RH = Rabbit Hash, Boone County; RRL = Rough River Lake, Grayson County; Rtm = Rivertown Marina, Campbell County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Tay = Taylor Park, Newport, Campbell County; TSP = Tom Sawyer State Park, Louisville, Jefferson County; Tow = Towhead Island, Louisville, Jefferson County; UKF = University of Kentucky Farm, Fayette County; War = Warsaw, Gallatin County; Yah = Yahoo Falls, McCreary County.

COMMON LOON — One on Ohio River at RH on 11 November (LMc); 3 at Tow on 12 November (JB, PB); 2 near dam on CRL on 17 November and 30 on main lake, CRL on 18 November (FB); 1 at Pew on 20 November (JWH); 3 at MK on 23 November (LMc).

PIED-BILLED GREBE — Six at QL on 7 October (WD); two to five at LC during October (VK, WK); 6 at Pen on 17 October (JWH); 20 on 17 October and 41 on 20 November at Pew (JWH); fairly common in small numbers in Boone and Campbell counties during November (LMc).

HORNED GREBE — One at Tay on 29 October (FR); 7 at Tow on 12 November (JB, PB).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — One to three at MCFH during August and September (FB); 10 to 12 at Dix on 21 August and 2 September (GE, NE); regular along Ohio River with 12 at EBP on 16 September (LMc); 1 at Pew on 19 September and 4 on 4 October (JWH); one at AJJ on 29 September (FR); single birds at LC on 7 and 14 October and 1 November (VK, WK); one at RRL on 12 October (KC, HC); 7 at Meh on 17 October (FR); 1 at AJJ on 22 October (FR); 15 at Tow on 4 November (JB, PB).

GREAT BLUE HERON — Up to 14 at Dix during the period (GE, NE); several single observations at Pew during the period (JWH); 36 at Falls on 10 August and 34 on 6 October (JB, PB); an average 20 during the period at MCFH (FB).

GREAT EGRET — Four at a Hart County location through August (MS); 12 at Falls on 10 August (JB, PB); 10 to 12 at Dix 21 August and 2 September (GE, NE); three to 13

birds, above normal numbers at MCFH during August and September (FB); 11 on LCK on 16 September (LMc).

GREEN-BACKED HERON — One at Bean Cemetery Road, Hopkins County on 16 August (JWH); 2 last seen at BPS on 18 September (KC); 1 at Pew on 12, 19, 27 September (JWH); last observation at MCFH on 1 October (FB).

SNOW GOOSE — One blue-phase at UKF on 9 October (WD); a single blue-phase at MCFH on 17 November (FB).

CANADA GOOSE — A flock of about 40 was seen feeding near Seneca Park on 19 November (S).

WOOD DUCK — 35 at farm pond, Pet on 21 October (LMc); 35 at BPS several nights in mid-November (KC).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL — 20 at farm pond near EBP on 16 September (LMc); 1 at MCFH on 11 November (FB).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK — 20 at ORB on 4 November (JB, PB).

MALLARD — 21 on 8 November, 35 on 20 November, and 20 on 27 November at Pew (JWH); 60+ in Dix on 25 November (GE, NE).

NORTHERN PINTAIL — A single female at MCFH from 15 to 17 September (FB).

BLUE-WING TEAL — Eight at EBP on 16 September (LMc); 150 on LC on 14 October (VK, WK); 40 at MCFH on 15 October (FB); 2 at CEL on 20 October (LMc).

NORTHERN SHOVELER — Two to five were seen at farm pond, Pet from 21 October to 5 November and 8 at CEL (LMc); 8 on 11 November and 10 on 26 November at LWB (JB, PB).

GADWALL — Approximately 30 at Goose Pond, CRL during November (FB).

AMERICAN WIGEON — Approximately 25 at Goose Pond, CRL during November (FB).

REDHEAD — 17 at CL on 17 November (JWH).

RING-NECKED DUCK — 5 on LC on 17 October (VK, WK); 5 at CEL on 8 November (LMc); 7 at CL on 17 November (JWH).

LESSER SCAUP — Three on LC 14 October (VK, WK).

BUFFLEHEAD — Four at Pew on 20 November (JWH); 8 arrived at MCFH on 3 November but had increased to about 75 by 30 November (FB).

SURF SCOTER — One was seen at Rtm on 21 and 22 November (FR); 3 were on the Ohio River near War on 23 November (LMc).

HOODED MERGANSER — 52 at LWB 11 November (JB, PB).

RUDDY DUCK — Five (1 male and 4 females) at MCFH on 3 November; one to three were at CEL November 8th to 25th (LMc); 14 on 20 November and 49 on 27 November at Pew. (JWH).

BLACK VULTURE — 60 at EBP on 16 September (LMc); 5 near LC on 21 October (VK, WK); 25 at Dry Ridge, Grant County on 19 November (LMc); 75+ birds in roost near BPS, since 25 November (KC).

TURKEY VULTURE — 50+ at roost near LC during mid-October (VK, WK); 100 to 200 birds in roost near BPS (KC).

OSPREY — Three at Hon and 2 over Bar on 2 August (MS); 1 on 6 August and 2 on 19 August at Riv (JB, PB); 1 at MCFH from 25 August to 1 October (FB); 1 at Dix on 14 and 29 October (GE, NE); 1 at Pew on 25 October (JWH).

BALD EAGLE — One adult and one immature were seen at MCFH on 25 August, earliest fall record at hatchery (FB); one at Riv on 9 September (JB, PB); one immature at Woolper Creek, Boone County on 21 October (LMc); 1 immature north of War on 23 November (LMc).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — One male in Hart County on 15 August (MS); one at TSP on 21 October (JB, PB); one at Bel on 22 October (FR); one chasing a Starling in Barren County on 9 November (MS).

COOPER'S HAWK — One in Hart County on 12 September (MS); 1 in Dan on 30 November (GE, NE).

RED-TAILED HAWK — One at Dix on 2 September (GE, NE); two in Hart County on 11, 12, 18, and 19 September (MS).

NORTHERN HARRIER — One female at LC on 6 October (VK, WK); 6 at Pea on 29 October and 13 in same area on 11 November (JP).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — Three (1 light phase & 2 dark phase) on 29 October and 11 November at Pea (JP).

PEREGRINE FALCON — One at MCFH on 1 October (KOS); two at Falls on 26 November (JB, PB).

WILD TURKEY — 14 at Ber on 16 September (JB, PB); 8 on PF on 15 October (JP).

SANDHILL CRANE — 62 in two flocks in Hart County on 31 October and 70+ in Hart County on 8 November (MS); 150 at Che on 7 November (JB, PB); 1400 in Hart County on 14 November (SK); 50 near Stoner Creek, Bourbon County on 14 November (VK, WK); over 100 were seen over Franklin County on 14 November and 65+ were observed on 15 November (WD); 24 near Williamstown, Grant County on 19 November (LMc); estimated 200 in northern Rowan County on 21 November (MH, LK); approximately 250 in Hart County 25 November (SK).

High water levels at Land Between the Lakes in western Kentucky reduced the available areas for shorebirds this fall (CP).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER — 2 on 6 August at Falls and 1 at OLF on 10 September (JB, PB); numbers at MCFH ranged from two to eight from 25 September through 1 October (FB).

KILLDEER — 62 at UKF on 23 October (WD).

AMERICAN AVOCET — Two (winter plumage) at LC on 14 October (VK, WK).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS — One at EBP on 16 September (LMc); 1 at UKF on 6 October (WD).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS — 6 at MCFH on 8 and 13 September (FB); 6 at OLF on 10 September (JB, PB).

RUDDY TURNSTONE — One at Falls on 6 August (JB, PB).

SANDERLING — Two at Falls on 6 August (JB, PB); 3 at Falls on 26 August (KOS); one on 1 October, one on 4 November, 2 on 5 November and one on 17 November (17 November is a late record date for Rowan County) (FB).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER — The numbers at MCFH were from 3 on 23 August to

a high of 15 on 27 September (FB).

WESTERN SANDPIPER — Two at Falls 19 August (JB, PB); 2 at Falls on 26 August (KOS); 2 at MCFH on 27 August and 8 September (FB).

LEAST SANDPIPER — There was an average of 5 observed at MCFH on seven trips during August and September.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER — Three at Falls on 26 August (KOS); 1 at MCFH on 27 August, 2 September and 1 October (JB); 2 at OLF on 10 September (JB, PB); 1 at UKF on 9 October (WD).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER — Five at OLF on 10 September (JB, PB); 3 at EBP on 16 September and 2 at farm, Pet on 5 November (LMc); 25 at MCFH on 24 September (FB); 9 at UKF on 6 October (WD).

DUNLIN — Two to five were at MCFH between 3 and 17 November (FB); 2 at Pet on 5 November (LMc).

STILT SANDPIPER — One at MCFH on 25 September (FB).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER — Two at falls on 19 August (JB, PB); 2 at Falls on 26 August (KOS); 2 at OLF on 10 September (JB, PB).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL — One at Falls on 15 November (JB, PB). This bird was seen by several birders and the documentation is being sent to the state bird records committee.

BONAPARTE'S GULL — 100 at Meh on 11 November (LMc); 50 at Falls on 12 November (JB, PB); 300 at Falls on 15 November (JB, PB); 30 at Mar on 23 November (LMc).

RING-BILLED GULL — 75 at Meh on 11 November (LMc); approximately 400 at Falls on 12 November (JB, PB); 300 at War 23 November (LMc).

HERRING GULL — Five at Dix on 29 October (GE, NE); 3 at MK on 11 November (LMC); 2 at Falls on 15 November (JB, PB).

CASPIAN TERN — 4 at Lake Barkley on 2 August (MS); 2 seen at Falls on 6 and 19 August (JB, PB); one observed on 21 August and 3 on 2 September at Dix (JE, NE).

FORSTER'S TERN — One at Falls on 6 August (JB, PB); 8 at RRL on 26 September (HC, KC).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO — Three at Ber on 16 September (JB, PB); 2 were last seen at BPS on 18 September (KC).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL — One at SC on 6 September (JP).

GREAT HORNED OWL — Two adults and 2-3 young were calling in Hart County during August (MS); 1 at SC on 6 September (JP).

SHORT-EARED OWL — Eight on 18 November and 10 on 26 November Pea (JP).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL — One observed in Hart County on the night of 23 October (SK). Documentation has been sent to the state bird records committee.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK — Four were seen at BPS on 28 August (KC); last observation in Nicholas County on 3 September (VK, WK); 55 at TSP on 4 September and 25 over Louisville on 15 September (JB, PB).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — Last heard at Hanson, Hopkins County on 6 September (BW); No record during the period at BPS (KC).

WHIP-POOR-WILL — Last heard at Hanson, Hopkins County on 14 September (BW).

RUBY-TH. HUMMINGBIRD — Five in LBL on 2 August (MS); 1 at LC on 5 September (VK, WK); a female lingered at a feeder in Hanson, Hopkins County until 27 September (BW); 1 at BPS from October 3 to 7 (KC); 1 near Horse Cave, Hart County on 22 October (MS).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — 10 at RRL on 29 October and one at Pea on 24 November (JP).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — Two birds arrived at BPS on 15 October (KC); 1 at RRL on 29 October (JP).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER — One near Middle Creek, Boone County on 9 September (LMc).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER — One on 26 August and 2 on 2 September at BNP (JB, PB).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER — One at Yah on 15 September (MSa, SS).

LEAST FLYCATCHER — One at BPS on 28 August (KC).

EASTERN PHOEBE — One at RRL on 23 September (JP).

HORNED LARK — Two at Falls on 9 August (JB, PB); 7 at Pea on 29 October and 10 on 11 November (JP).

PURPLE MARTIN — Last observation at Mad on 7 August (JWH); 15 to 25 in Oko area on 8 and 9 August (JH).

TREE SWALLOW — 35 on 23 September, 45 on 24 September, and 50 on 21 October at MCFH (FB); 200+ at Pea on 29 October (JP).

BARN SWALLOW — Five on 21 October at MCFH (FB).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH — Two at feeder at Cox on 17 September (DC); 6 arrived at BPS on 4 October (KC); 2 at Pen on 12 October (JWH); 1 at feeder near LC from November 2 through 27 (VK, WK); 1 at Mad on November 4 through 27 (JWH); 1 at a Bur feeder from 13 to 23 November (LMc).

BROWN CREEPER — One at BPS on 15 October (KC).

HOUSE WREN — 1 at TSP on 29 October (JB, PB).

WINTER WREN — One at Riv on 24 September (JB, PB).

SEDGE WREN — Two at TSP on 21 September (JB, PB); 1 near Somerset, Pulaski County on 24 September (DC); 1 at BNP on 1 October (JB, PB).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — Five at OCP on 14 October (JB, PB); 1 at LC on 30 October (VK, WK).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET — One at Riv on 24 September and one at BNP on 1 October (JB, PB).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD — Flock of 30 - 40 birds were seen in Hart County on several occasions during September (SK).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH — 2 on 15 September and 1 on 17 September at BNP (JB, PB), 1 at EBP on 16 September (LMc); 1 on Blue Heron Loop Trail, McCreary County on 23 September (RE, SS).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH — Five at BNP on 4 and 15 September (JB, PB); 5 near Middle Creek, Boone County on 27 September (LMc); 3 at BPS on 27 September (KC).

- GRAY CATBIRD — One still at Pen on 11 October (JWH).
- CEDAR WAXWING — 27 at Dan on 22 November (GE, NE).
- AMERICAN PIPIT — Three at MCFH on 3 November (FB).
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — One near Horse Cave, Hart County on 22 October (MS).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO — Two at Riv on 9 September (JB, PB).
- SOLITARY VIREO — Five at Riv on 24 September, 1 at TSP on 7 October, and 1 at Che on 16 October (JB, PB).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO — 4 at Riv on 24 September (JB, PB).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO — Three at BNP on 15 September and 3 at TSP on 21 September (JB, PB); one at Blue Heron Trail, McCreary County on 23 September (RE, SS).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER — Two on 23 August and 1 on 26 August at BNP (JB, PB).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER — One at BNP on 15 and 17 September (JB, PB); one at Yah on 15 September (MSa, SS); one at Middle Creek, Boone County on 16 September (LMc); 3 in Hart County on 17 September (SK); 1 at BBL on 25 September (LMc).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER — One in Hart County on 30 September (SK).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER — Up to 3 observed at Dan on 24 September, 14 and 22 October (GE, NE).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER — Six at TSP on 24 September (JB, PB); one in Lexington, Fayette County on 15 October (WD).
- NORTHERN PARULA — One on 2 September and 2 on 3 September at BNP (JB, PB).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER — Two at BNP on 23 and 24 September (JB, PB).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER — One in Dan on 15 September (GE, NE).
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - First fall observation in Hopkins County on 4 October (JWH); 10 at Meh on 17 October (FR); approximately 120 at Visitor's Center, Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County on 8 October (SK); good numbers across the state.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER — One at Bel on 19 September (FR).
- PINE WARBLER — One singing in Mad from 26 August to 9 October (JWH).
- PALM WARBLER — Two at Meh on 17 October (FR); 10 on 21 September and 1 on 21 October at TSP (JB, PB); 4 in northwest Grayson County on 23 September (JP).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER — One at Bel on 19 September (FR).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER — One at Bel on 19 September (FR); 1 reported from Grayson County on 23 September (JP).
- AMERICAN REDSTART — One at Dan on 8 September (GE, NE); one at Bel on 19 September (FR).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH — One at BNP on 17 September and one at TSP on 30 September (JB, PB).
- HOODED WARBLER — One at Louisville Zoo, Jefferson County on 17 September (JB, PB).
- WILSON'S WARBLER — One on 26 August and two on 27 August, 3 and 9 September at BNP (JB, PB).
- CANADA WARBLER — One on 23 and 26 August and two on 27 August at BNP (JB, PB).

SUMMER Tanager — One in Hart County on 19 September (MS).

SCARLET Tanager — One at BNP on 15 September (JB, PB).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK — Eleven at BNP on 15 September (JB, PB); observed at Mad on 15, 18, and 26 September (JWH); 3 at BPS on 11 September (HC, KC); 1 female near Horse Cave, Hart County on 27 September (MS); 3 at BPS on 12 October (KC).

BLUE GROSBEAK — One in song at Slator Road, Mad on 3 August (JWH); one heard on Bear Cemetery Road, Mad on 16 August (JWH); 1 near Somerset, Pulaski County on 24 September (DC).

Various species of sparrows seem to be scarce at Ten Broeck this fall (S).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW — Five at BPS on 23 November (VK, WK).

CHIPPING SPARROW — Two immatures at feeder, LC on 20 November (HC, KC).

SAVANNAH SPARROW — One at TSP on 7 October (JB, PB).

FOX SPARROW — One at feeder in Mad on 15 November (JWH).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW — One at BBL on 25 September (LMc).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — Five in Hart County on 5 October (MS); 2 at Pen on 11 October (JWH); first fall observation in Nicholas County on 11 October (VK, WK); 1 at feeder in Mad (JWH) and Ten (S) on 16 October.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — One in Mad on 12 November (JWH); 2 in Hart County on 30 October and 4 on 25 November also Hart County (MS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO — First fall observation in Mad on 25 October (JWH); first arrived at Ten on 3 November (S); seem to be fewer numbers at BPS (KC).

SWAMP SPARROW — One in Mercer County on 24 September (WD); 2 at TSP on 7 October (JB, PB); 2 at Meh on 17 October (FR).

NORTHERN ORIOLE — One in Mad on 3 and 4 September (JWH).

PURPLE FINCH — One male on 9 November and one female on 19 November at feeder at Carlisle, Nicholas County (VK, WK); approximately 20 at feeder at Hanson, Hopkins County from 15 to 30 November (BW); 2 at feeder in Cox on 19 November (DC).

PINE SISKIN — Eight at feeder on 8 November and 10 at feeder on 19 November in Nicholas County (VK, WK); 2 to 6 at feeder in Mad from 12 to 21 November (JWH); 3 at a feeder in Bell on 28 November (FR).

EVENING GROSBEAK — The first reported in Rowan County in two years were 3 at a feeder (LK) and five at a feeder on 19 November (DH, FH); 14 seen in Hanson, Hopkins County on 28 November (BW).

Contributors - Pat Bell (PB), Jane Bell (JB), Fred Busroe (FB), Herbert Clay (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dona Coates (DC), Wayne Davis (WD), James Durell (JD), Ginny Eklund (GE), Neil Eklund (NE), Robert Emmott (RE), Mrs. Justin Hess (JH), James W. Hancock (JWH), Mike Hearn (MH), Debbie Howes (DH), Fred Howes (FH), Kentucky Ornithological Field Trip (KOS), Virginia Kingsolver (VK), Wendell Kingsolver (WK), Steve Kistler (SK), Louis Kornman (LK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Joyce Porter (JP), Frank Renfrow (FR), Michael Sanders (MSa), Anne Stamm (S), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Stephen Stedman (SS), Bonnie West (BW).

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1995-1996

Reports on 24 counts were received from across the state. A total of 124 species was recorded on count days, 114 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: Little Blue Heron (Hancock), Osprey (Marion), Peregrine Falcon (Louisville), two Ruffed Grouse (Hart and Perry counties), Thayer's Gull (Warsaw), American Woodcock (Calloway County), Black-legged Kittiwake (Warsaw), Swainson's Thrush (Louisville), American Pipit (Green River Lake), and Lapland Longspur (Bernheim Forest). Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Lesser Black-backed Gull were additional species added by observations made during the count week. There were three additional species observed this year compared with last. Three species were observed on every count and fourteen species only on one count. The overall total number of individuals on the table includes those individuals not represented on the table.

One-quarter of the counts were conducted either on December 16 or December 30. The low temperatures for count days ranged from 17°F to 48°F and the highs between 27°F to 60°F. These temperatures were fairly mild and consistent with last year's temperatures during this time period. It was nice to see the number of waterfowl more than rebound compared with last year. This rebound in numbers could be due to colder temperatures and snowfall experience prior to the count period north of Kentucky and/or to the excellent breeding season last summer. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were well above normal. American Robin and Cedar Waxwing numbers doubled compared with last year. Eastern Bluebird numbers appeared to remain relatively constant once again. Purple Finch numbers were over three-fold greater than last year. As always, definitive conclusions regarding short term population trends based on results of these counts are not possible. Other observations of interest can be found in the comments accompanying the description for each count.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts. Although unusual sightings are included in the counts, documentation needs to be considered by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) in order to establish state record status.

Calloway County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential, 35% open fields and pastures. Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky sunny a.m., partly cloudy p.m.; temp. 22° to 43°F; wind S, 6 m.p.h.

11 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 35 (5.75 on foot, 29.25 by car). Total party miles 327 (8 on foot, 319 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 23,552.

Observers: Wally Brines, Hap Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Joyce Hyon, Ruth Jacquot, Lawrence Philpot, Luanne Philpot, Mike Miller, Tommy Sherwood, and Sandra Sanders.

Two Accipiter species were observed.

Land Between the Lakes (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat as described in American Birds, 1984. Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy, a.m.; clear p.m.; temp. 45° to 60°F; wind SSW, 8-15 m.p.h.

18 observers in 7-9 parties. Total party-hours 45.75 (22.50 on foot, 23.25 by car). Total party-miles 285.5 (18.5 on foot, 267 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 8,296.

Observers: Hap Chambers, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Joyce Hyon, Ruth Jacquot, Sally Leedom, Terry Lowery, Carl Mowery (compiler), Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Darrin Samborski, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, Mauricia Toon, Henry Yacek, and Paul Yamber.

Loggerhead Shrike, House Finches, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Least Sandpipers, and Spotted Sandpipers were observed during the count week, but not on the count day. Also, 100 gulls of unidentified species were observed on the day of the count.

Marion (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat open fields, woods and river bottoms. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 40° to 50°F; wind N, 5-10 m.p.h.

2 observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (14 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 20 (2 on foot, 18 by car). Total species; total individuals.

Observers: C.L. Frazer (compiler), and Jim Frazer.

Sorgho (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat feeder, woods, plowed fields, roadside, ponds, river bank, and river bottoms. December 23; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 23° to 30°F; wind 12-20 m.p.h. Snow flurries.

9 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 54 (18 on foot, 36 by car). Total party-miles 126.5 (10 on foot, 116.5 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 3,418.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Mary Harrel, Neal Hayden, Janet Howard (compiler), Joyce Porter, Tommy Stevenson, and Marilee Thompson.

Joyce Porter reported observing a "pink-sided" junco.

Yelvington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of KY 405 and 662.) Habitat Ohio River bottoms, creek bottoms, game and fish farm, three lakes, and feeders. December 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 48° to 55°F; wind 5 to 10 m.p.h.

17 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 68 (30 on foot, 38 by car). Total party-miles 75.5 (20.5 on foot, 55 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 4,113.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Mike Brown, Sharon Davis, Tony Eaden, Stephen Ham, Mary Harrel, Neil Hayden, Janet Howard, Leona Kimmel, Greg Kocher, Joyce Porter, Bert Powell (compiler), Millie Powell (feeder watch), Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray (feeder watch), Bill Tyler, and Marilee Thompson.

Lack of waterfowl kept our numbers of species low. The Eastern Screech-Owl is noteworthy.

Hancock County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields, and creek bottom. December 29; 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky sunny; temp. 28° to 36°F; wind 5 m.p.h.

2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7.5 (6.5 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 12 (5 on foot, 7 by car). Total species 16; total individuals 113.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walter Radzelovage.

Olmstead (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Junction of KY 1041 of KY 1151, six miles southwest of Russellville, Kentucky) Habitat about 75% cultivated farmland, the remaining habitat includes blocks of deciduous woods, fence rows, pasture, grown-up fields, open water, and developed areas. December 29; 6:40 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Sky clear, some cirrus clouds; temp. 24° to 41°F; wind 0-5 m.p.h. Most water was frozen.

1 observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (2 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 61 (1 on foot, 60 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 3,145.

Observer: Mark Bennett (compiler).

All ducks were at Herdon Lake, 2 of 3 Eastern Phoebe and Snipe were at Mosely's Pond.

Paradise (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. December 30; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear to cloudy; temp. 22° to 45°F; wind SW, 0-12 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen; no snow cover.

12 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 30 (16 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 163 (5 on foot, 158 by car). Total species 91; total individuals 35,670.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Michael Bierly, Dave Berry, Shirley Berry, Herbert

Clay, Kathryn Clay, Richard Healy, Jr., Steve Kistler, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Robert Rold, and Eric Williams.

Weather conditions were good and the number of observers average. This year's species total (91) equaled the count best previously attained in 1990-91. Waterfowl were abundant and diverse (16 species). Highlights of the count included the Merlin (reported from near the 20th Century portion of the Homestead mine, Ohio County), the Sandhill Crane (observed with waterfowl on the Gibraltar mine, Muhlenberg County), the House Wren (observed on the Sinclair mine, Muhlenberg County), the Gray Catbird (observed along Union Hill School Road, Ohio County), and the Chipping Sparrow (observed with a flock of juncos in the small Community of Nelson, Muhlenberg County). Raptors were abundant on the mines this winter, as evidenced by the high count for Northern Harriers (83), Rough-legged Hawks (30) and Short-eared Owls (an incredible total of 134). The Short-eared Owl total exceeds the all-time North American Christmas Bird Count high for published Audubon counts! An Oregon count tallied 103 Short-eared Owls in 1953. The Red-tailed Hawk total includes one individual of the Krider's race. Not included in the total were tens of thousands of unidentified blackbirds (probably mostly grackles) that were observed crossing the area, moving to and from a large roost near Central City.

Two Accipiter species were observed.

Bowling Green (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. December 17; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast, rain in p.m.; temp. 38° to 52°F; wind SE, 10 m.p.h.

8 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 21 (9 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 95 (10 on foot, 85 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 3,243.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Robert Krenzin, Dick Lord, Wayne Mason, Alice Rowe, Marvin Russell, and Nancy Russell. Herbert E. Shadowen feeder-watcher.

Mammoth Cave National Park (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) December 20; 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky sunny; temp. 25° to 33°F; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h.

5 observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12.5 (6.5 on foot, 6.0 by car). Total party-miles 82 (8 on foot, 74 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 1,250.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, and Herbert Shadowen.

Again, the highlight of the count was the adult Bald Eagle at First Creek and an immature Bald Eagle. It was interesting running the count in a empty Mammoth Cave National Park. The park was closed due to the budget impasse in Washington.

Glasgow (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. December 27; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky overcast early, clear to partly cloudy in afternoon; temp. 28° to 43°F; wind NE, 0-10 m.p.h.

6 observers in 2 parties. 8 feeder watchers. Total party-hours 19.5 (10.75 on foot, 8.75 by car). Total party-miles 70 (9.5 on foot, 60.5 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 3,602.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Dr. Sandra Dotson Moss, and Frank Wade. Glasgow feeder watchers: Libby Erwine, Gloria Houchens, Lou Mae Johnson, Buck Jones, Howard M. Jones, Arlene Latham, Doris McKinley, and Helen Tinsley.

Falls of Rough (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek, Kentucky.) Habitat woodland, cultivated fields, Rough River Lake, streams, watershed lakes, ponds, old fields, and yard feeders. December 30; 6:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 17° to 54°F; wind calm. 54°F reached by 1:00 p.m.

10 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 24 (14 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 113 (10 on foot, 103 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 2,566.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Herbert Clay, Jr., Kathryn Clay, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Mary Harrel, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, Michael Kral, and Joyce Porter (compiler).

A roost of vultures was located on Big Pond Sanctuary.

Hart County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1992.) Habitat as 1992. December 21; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 26° to 32°F; wind calm.

8 observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 11 (7 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 90 (4 on foot, 86 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 2,075.

Observers: John Brittain, J.D. Craddock III, Carol Friedman, Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler (compiler), Mitch Sturgeon, Randall Sullivan, and Chuck Wuertzer.

A Common Barn Owl released as a juvenile during the summer of 1994 still lives on a farm in Hart County. The total of 56 species was the highest in the 10-year history of our count.

One Accipiter species was observed.

Green River Lake (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat Green River, Green River Lake, Campbellsville Sportsman Lake, lawns, farm fields, woods and brushy fields. December 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky mostly overcast, occasional sun; temp. 28° to 31°F; wind S, 15 m.p.h. Snow showers on and off throughout the day; ponds frozen.

4 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 26 (9 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 143 (6 on foot, 137 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 5,698.

Observers: Lloyd C. Curry (compiler), Jeremy Dale, Richie Kessler, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

One immature Bald Eagle was observed. The Red-necked Grebe was observed at the marina, both in the morning and afternoon. About twice the size of the nearby Pied-billed Grebes. Longish neck, pale reddish brown color on sides, paler in front; dark cap; lighter cheek patch; relatively long bill suffused with yellow (strangely deformed with divergent tips - surprised the bird could feed and preen); body overall brownish. Wing pattern was not observed. The bird was seen from a couple of hundred yards on a cloudy day with 60X spotting scope. Unusually large numbers of Hermit Thrushes were found; one or two were seen at many scattered localities in pines and cedars. Characteristic flight notes of an American Pipit were heard as the bird passed overhead in open farmland just south of the lake. A small flock of Savannah Sparrows was found perched in a fenceline in very open farmland south of the lake. The birds were observed at close range and their light chip notes were heard. At least two Lapland Longspurs were observed feeding with a flock of approximately 125 Horned Larks in farmland along Arista Roberts Road just east of Campbellsville.

Otter Creek Park (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 26%, farmlands 38%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. December 16; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear; temp. 35° to 48°F; wind NE, 9 m.p.h. Owling 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., five miles.

13 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 34 (14.5 on foot, 19.5 by car). Total party-miles 197.75 (14.5 on foot, 183.25 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 11,326.

Observers: Mary B. Bauer, Stephen A. Figg, Frank H. Krull, John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Timothy Love, Joyce Metzger, Diane Miller, Robert Miller, Doxie Noonan, Jim Pasikowski, Helga Schutte, and Anne Stamm (compiler).

The species count was fair, although only two species of ducks were found: 18 Mallards and 1 Gadwall. Hawks were fairly well represented. Both an adult and an immature Bald Eagle were observed by Jim Pasikowski, Celia Lawrence, and Joyce Metzger. A rather late flock of 200 Sandhill Cranes was noted flying southward by two parties. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at an all-time high count of 36, perhaps due to the good acorn crop. Late stragglers were three Chipping Sparrows, studied carefully by Robert and Diane Miller, and Helga Schutte. Documentation was enclosed.

Bernheim Forest (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. December 23; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 21° to 27°F; wind NW, 0-15 m.p.h. Intermittent snow showers entire day.

10 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 34.5 (19.5 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 223 (12 on foot, 211 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 6,710.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Jackie Elmore, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Don Smith, Tony Smith, Ed Toone III, and Ed Toone IV.

The most noteworthy find of the count was a male "Spotted" Towhee that was observed along Wilson Creek and studied well (including distinctive call note). Other highlights included two immature Golden Eagles (soaring together in the rugged knob country south of the main forest), a House Wren, and a Lapland Longspur (feeding with a flock of Horned Larks). Berry-eating species were in good supply and included the large numbers of Hermit Thrushes, American Robins, and Cedar Waxwings. Purple Finches put in their best showing in several years (64) and the totals of five Red-headed Woodpeckers and three Eastern Phoebe were highs for this count. The Red-tailed Hawk total included one dark morph Harlan's Hawk that was observed in open farmland north of Boston. Waterfowl other than Canada Geese were scarce. Intermittent heavy snow showers provided a beautiful backdrop for the participants.

Louisville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. December 17; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 34° to 46°F; wind E/NE, 7-15 m.p.h.

35 observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 87.5 (40.25 on foot, 47.25 by car). Total party-miles 466.5 (34 on foot, 432.5 by car). Total species 93; total individuals 30,172.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Win Ahrens, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (compilers), Marie Blahnik, Roland Blahnik, Steve Figg, Chuck Hatten, Bob Johnson, Cheryl Jones, Frank Krull, John Krull, Jerry Lewis, Tim Love, Fred Mansmith, Judith McCandless, Rich McDonough, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, Burt Monroe III, Mark Monroe, Bob Noonan, Doxie Noonan, Clara Ann Pallares, David Pallares, Martha Pike, Bob Quaipe, Lene Rauth, Helga Schutte, Ann Stamm, Charles Stover, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss, Ed Toone, Beckham Bird Club, and guests.

Species total was excellent - an increase of eleven over last year. The number of individual birds was down from last year, explained by a decrease in the number of starlings. There was an increase in the number of most duck species over last year. Several Black-crowned Night-Herons seem to be overwintering at the Louisville Zoo, where a large rookery exists. Mute Swans, Surf Scoter, Sandhill Cranes, one very late Swainson's Thrush (not on the table), and Savannah Sparrows were some of the highlights of this year's count.

Shelbyville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded, and grassland. December 31; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast all day; temp. 40° to 45°F; wind S/SW, 10-15 m.p.h.

11 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 28 (1.5 on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party-miles 282 (1 on foot, 281 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 4,907.

Observers: Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Sean Brown, Todd Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), Zachary Brown, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Peggy Gould, Ralph Gould, and Russ Smith.

Frankfort (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. December 16; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 38° to 52°F; wind ENE, 4-11 m.p.h. Some a.m. fog.

21 observers in 10-11 parties. Total party-hours 38 (20 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 205.5 (15.5 on foot, 190 by car). 14 hours at feeders. Total species 50; total individuals 5,436.

Observers: Johanna Arnold-Rinehart, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Suzanne Doerrfeld, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (Compiler), Ralph Gould, Mary Pat Hankla,

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1995

	CALLOWAY COUNTY	LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES	MARION	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	HANCOCK COUNTY	OLMSTEAD	PARADISE	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE NATL PARK	GLASGOW	FALLS OF ROUGH	HART COUNTY	GREEN RIVER LAKE	OTTER CREEK	BERNHHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER WMA	DANVILLE	BURLINGTON	WARSAW	PERRY COUNTY	TOTAL
COMMON LOON	4	1									2			2	1					2			3		12
PIED-B. GREBE	7	17			1			20	1*		8			14	1		31			2	1		7		109
HORNED GREBE	2	3												6			3						2		16
RED-NECKED GREBE														1						1					2
D.-CR. CORMORANT		566						5									17						40		628
GREAT BLUE HERON	37	88	2	4	7		5	18	3	2	16	4	7	6	7	4	31	7	10	2	10	11	37	*	318
BLACK-CR. NIGHT-HERON																	13								13
MUTE SWAN																	7								7
SNOW GOOSE							1														4				5
CANADA GOOSE	150	327		38	94		41	2210	75		69	70	*	2	9	307	855	350	163		271	903	111		8045
WOOD DUCK	1	12			2		1					5	3				36								60
GREEN-WINGED TEAL							31		15*					1			4				4	4	7		51
AM. BLACK DUCK	7	55	8	2			2	71					2	35		6	111	2			50	69	11		431
MALLARD	118	872		114	4		5	2654	19	17	33	6	16	776	18	109	1846	348	29		452	476	40		8152
NORTHERN PINTAIL								4									1								20
NORTHERN SHOVELER	89	3						10						2			18				1				123
GADWALL		98					3	147						18	1		164			2	2	2			437
AM. WIGEON		60						98	1					3			50								212
CANVASBACK	2	4						19						1			8								34
REDHEAD	1	1						1																	3
RING-NECKED DUCK							2	316						12			60								454
GREATER SCAUP	9	55															9								9
LESSER SCAUP	3	3							1								55								62
SURF SCOTER									1								1								2

CEDAR WAXWING	110	74		30	40	42	30	11	27*	139	70	59	117	1246	276	1	10	27	25	9	42	2358
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	7	1*				2	1	2		1	1		2				1		7		24	
EUROPEAN STARLING	9122	470		1923	471	432	845	764	98	885	439	800	1902	6771	1186	16636	2424	3219	818	5789	528	
YELLOW-R. WARBLER	16	9			1	2	44	15	4	1	30	7	7	79	123	19		4	26	4	26	
PINE WARBLER	9		2					2													13	
PALM WARBLER												1							1		2	
N. CARDINAL	413	231		42	84	128	11	84	103	23	93	92	46	180	79	258	399	104	143	54	182	
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	63	127		13	19	1	8	22	10	6	9	17	12	9	21	47	18	1	9	6	14	
AM. TREE SPARROW	7	4		2	2			53				1			20	5	1	8		4	104	
CHIPPING SPARROW					16			1							3				11		31	
FIELD SPARROW	33	94		5	8	27		11	54	3	9	20	1	15	30	9	21	28	1	5	13	
SAVANNAH SPARROW	4							1	12	3				4			3				444	
FOX SPARROW		2		1	1			11	1		1				2	1	*	1		1	24	
SONG SPARROW	39	121		49	48	4	17	117	41	17	28	35	70	80	114	150	199	55	60	15	87	
SWAMP SPARROW	8	25		60	5		1	50	4		2	1	32	9	22	33	4	1	5	26	1613	
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	270	409		26	8	1	32	40	38	58	81	28	62	136	51	102	271	11	72	4	5	
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	1	2		6	14	21		50	9	1	2	22	39	22	5	32	19	43	5	51	11	
DARK-EYED JUNCO	478	532		56	140		34	155	28	175	64	133	66	100	156	494	370	30	94	56	33	
LAPLAND LONGSPUR														2							20	
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	2902	300		41	312		1046	1500	10	130	200	175	85	730	122					10	7563	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	202	33		4	23	56	110	82	9	1	49	22	68	70	56	17	7	44	14	13	36	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	3			2										14	2						21	
COMMON GRACKLE	4837	419		450	62	1592	13	25000	459		4	41		148	15	1	5			2534	35580	
BROWN-H. COWBIRD	22	15		30	17	61	3*	2*	120	50	10	50	10	400	96	1			8	20	886	
PURPLE FINCH	33	8		10	10		3*	2*	4	1	2	6	23	25	64		2	4	4		186	
HOUSE FINCH	112	*		12	39	149	*	*	4	40	142	91	12	160	73	187	895	79	119	8	113	
PINE SISKIN	4				2							46	91	72	88	42	280	64	135	8	62	
AM. GOLDFINCH	146	45		10	102		40	257	9	6	15				5	*	11	1		2	1	
EVENING GROSBEAK	2																				12	
HOUSE SPARROW	92	10	2	219	8		100	23	63	*	32	11	18	44	80	86	426	232	62	11	151	
																				38	61	
DAY OF COUNT	D30	D16	J1	D23	D16	D23	D29	D30	D17	D20	D28	D30	D21	D27	D16	D23	D17	D31	D16	D30	D16	D30
NUMBER OF SPECIES	89	84	33	56	63	16	53	91	63	43	61	62	56	75	66	62	93	51	50	46	66	62
INDIVIDUALS	23551	8295	825	3418	4113	113	3145	35697	3243	1250	3602	2566	2075	5697	11326	6707	30280	4907	5436	2155	11321	4078
OBSERVERS	11	18	2	9	17	2	1	12	8	5	6	10	8	4	13	10	35	11	21	8	29	20
																					9	2

Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Chris Hoskins, Jeff Jones, Amanda Klintz, Margaret LaFontaine, E.T. Lyons, Denny Markwell, Joan Markwell, Karen McDowell, Iznatia Proctor, Janie Stout, and Tim Williams.

Food was very abundant. Predominant foods were bittersweet, hawthorn, crabapple, poison ivy, sumac and smilax (salt briar).

Kleber Wildlife Management Area (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. December 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 18° to 48°F; wind SSW, 5-14 m.p.h. Some snow cover: still water frozen.

8 observers in 4-5 parties. Total party-hours 30 (8.5 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party-miles 239 (7 on foot, 232 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 2,155.

Observers: Johanna Arnold-Rinehart, Horace Brown, Stuart Butler, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (compiler), and Ralph Gould.

Food was scarce. Some of the following were found; bittersweet, honeysuckle, bicolor lespedeza, sawbriar, and some acorns.

Danville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat as described before. December 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear; temp. 37° to 50°F; wind W, 5 m.p.h.

29 observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 56.75 (15 on foot, 41.75 by car). Total party-miles 471 (16 on foot, 455 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 1,320.

Observers: Ed Caldwell, Neil Eklund (compiler), Virginia Eklund, Martha Foster, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Dorothy Belle Hill, Lee Hoaglund, Mort Hoaglund, J.W. Kemper, Charles Kohler, Sara Lamb, F.W. Loetscher, Tom McKune, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, Alex Nichols, John B. Nichols, Herb Pititjean, Tom Quilligan, Louise Robinson, Rose-Marie Roessler, Lee Russell, Ralph Schiefferle, Bill Simpson, Marvon Smith, Betty Ullrich, Charles Vahlkamp, and Tracey Ward.

Four Snow Geese "blue morph" were observed during the count day.

Burlington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. December 30; 6:35 a.m. to 5:38 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 19° to 42°F; wind S, 6-8 m.p.h. Ohio River open, most other water frozen.

20 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 38 (23 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 174 (12 on foot, 162 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 4,078.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, John Bellamy, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Granville Carey, Elaine Carroll, Pat Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Kevin Flowers, Ed Groneman, Lee McNeely (compiler), Karen Puckett, Carmen Schulte, and Tommy Stephens. Feeder Watchers: Barb Beckerich, Marjorie Hill, Lynda McNeely, Steve Wilmhoff, and Gilber Zembrodt.

The majority of waterfowl were found at the East Bend Power Plant, with new count highs for Canada Goose, American Black Ducks, and Mallard. Also, American Tree Sparrows were present in unusually high numbers.

Warsaw (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. December 16; 6:50 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky heavy fog in a.m., clear and sunny in p.m.; temp. 34° to 48°F; wind N, 0-8 m.p.h.

9 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 28 (20 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 137 (9 on foot, 128 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 3,593.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Richard Cassell, Kevin Flowers, Martina Hines, Frank Lewandowski, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Tommy Stephens.

Highlights of the count were five species of gulls including single Thayer's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-necked Grebe, and Short-eared Owl. A good variety of raptors was present, including one adult Bald Eagle.

Perry County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Grapevine Creek.) Habitat mixed woodland, pasture, and small ponds. December 30; 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 20° to 45°F; wind calm.

2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 40 (4 on foot, 36 by car). Total species 38; total individuals 298.

Observers: Dennis Sandlin and Donnie R. Spencer (compiler).

BIRDS OF MANCHESTER 1, MANCHESTER 2, AND BRUSH CREEK ISLAND, OHIO RIVER ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LEWIS COUNTY, KENTUCKY

RUDY A. GELIS

BEREA COLLEGE, KENTUCKY

INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted on three islands that were part of 57 islands in the Ohio River in the early 1900s. Of these, six are now fully developed and 16 have been destroyed by navigational methods and sand and gravel acquisition. Manchester 1 and Manchester 2 Islands are under the management of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Brush Creek is currently under private ownership, but is projected as a part of the system. The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1900 to protect the remaining 35 islands and their backchannels for their high quality of fish and wildlife, as well as for recreational, natural heritage, and scientific value. This recognition, as well as that of their geological uniqueness, has resulted in the protection of nearly 3,500 acres of important lowland, riparian habitat (Anonymous 1994). Tolin and Morrison (1983) made a reconnaissance bird survey and listed 19 species for Manchester 1, 20 species for Manchester 2, and 18 species for Brush Creek.

STUDY AREA

Brush Creek Island is located in the Meldahl Navigation Pool of the Ohio River in Lewis County, Kentucky, between miles 387.9 and 388.4, or 2.0 miles east of Concord and 0.2 miles west of Chalkey Station in the Concord Quadrangle. The island consists of approximately 17 acres, which grades from a high, perched aspect resulting from severe erosion at the head to a moderate aspect on the channel side. A few deeply submerged logs were noted near the head of the island. The Manchester Islands are located in the Meldahl Navigation Pool of the Ohio River in Lewis County, Kentucky, between miles 395.4 and 396.8, or 1.3 miles east of Trinity Station and 0.2 miles west of Irwin in the Manchester Islands Quadrangle. Manchester 1 is composed of approximately 27 acres and Manchester 2 is composed of approximately 115 acres. Island soils are of the Ohio River flood plain, backwater, and low terrace alluvium consisting of silt, sand, and clay. All three islands have a lower and upper terrace, with elevations ranging from 500'-510', and the higher terrace delineates the upper limit of flooding where a thin layer of silt or clay may be deposited or eroded. The average 2-year flood reaches an altitude of 505-510 feet. The lower terraces are composed of Wheeling loam series, a modern alluvium with little or no soil development. The upper terraces are composed of Nolin silt loam series, an older alluvium with some soil development (Jacobs 1995). The islands lie within the Bluegrass Section of the Western Mesophytic Forest Region. Each island is tear-shaped from the direct current of the Ohio River, and the heads are composed of sand, gravel, and cobbles, because the high velocity current gleans the sand and lighter detritus from the uppermost

part of the island. The sides and toes are composed of sand, silt, clay, muck, and detritus (Tolin and Morrison 1983).

RESULTS

Habitats on all three islands were categorized as follows: Early and late oldfield, forested bottomland, unconsolidated shoreline, and riverbank. These types are based on existing vegetation, topography, soils, and influence of the fluvial action of the Ohio River. The acreage of each habitat for all three islands (Table 1) is an adaptation of the acres of habitat approximated by Tolin and Morrison (1983). A list of breeding season residents was compiled (Table 2) to offer baseline data for anyone interested in the birds that may breed in this region. Most of these birds nest on the islands, but no breeding bird surveys were conducted. Many birds were recorded that only briefly visited the islands, especially during the spring and fall migratory period (Table 3). Breeding season residents are only an indication of what might nest on the islands, with the exception of the birds that were confirmed breeders by evidence of nest-building or nestling feeding. Common Grackle, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, and House Finch were left off Table 2 because I am not convinced they breed for lack of suitable habitat, although they were seen during the breeding season.

EARLY AND LATE OLD FIELD

This habitat is a result of secondary succession because of human intervention through logging and farming practices, seasonal flooding by the Ohio River, wind, lightning, or other disturbances. Old fields progress from early old field succession dominated by herbaceous perennials with biennials and annuals to late old field succession with considerable influence from invading woody plants, as well as perennial herbs. As secondary succession progresses with more woody trees, late old field succession eventually proceeds into a forested bottomland habitat. Woody plants typically found in old field succession include highbush blackberry, black raspberry, common elderberry, riverbank and winter grape, poison ivy, Virginia creeper, and saplings of boxelder, white mulberry, sycamore, and silver maple. Abundant herbaceous species are wingstem, goldenrod, pokeweed, and wild potato vine.

Birds associated with this habitat include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, and Carolina Wren.

Old fields are more pronounced on Manchester 2 because of recent agricultural attempts, but are evident at the heads of all three islands, where abrasion from winter and early spring flooding hinders the growth of most woody species. Approximately 4 acres of Manchester 2 that was formerly farmed is in an early stage of plant succession. A pair of turkey vultures was found in the basement of an abandoned house near a site on Manchester 2 that was cleared for cultivation in past years. In an abandoned shack nearby, a pair of black vultures was also observed. Both pairs of vultures successfully fledged two young.

FORESTED BOTTOMLAND

The forested bottomland habitat can be identified by large stands of riparian trees. Dominant trees in various size-classes are silver maple, eastern cottonwood, American sycamore, boxelder, black walnut, and American elm. The herb layer is composed of few species because of the dense canopy. Abundant herbs include true nettle, Virginia jumpseed, pale jewelweed, false nettle, stinging nettle, white grass, and blue violet. Woody shrubs and vines include Virginia creeper, poison ivy, trumpet creeper, fox grape, and common elderberry.

Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Northern Oriole are passerines frequently found in the forested bottomland habitat. Cavity-nesting birds use this habitat because of the numerous trees and hollow snags.

These snags of dead or dying trees are riddled with holes made by Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Wood Duck, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Kingbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Kestrel reuse cavities created by those five species of woodpeckers inhabiting the islands.

UNCONSOLIDATED SHORELINE

This habitat is found encircling all of the islands from the head to the downstream toe. The head of each island is steep and subject to severe erosion where the current of the river first meets the island. The unconsolidated shoreline varies from a few feet wide with a steep bank to 20 feet wide with a gradual slope. Herbaceous plants of this seasonally disturbed habitat are usually annuals and biennials. The most abundant herbs present are smartweed, carpetweed, lovegrass, yardgrass, barnyard grass, yellow nutsedge, and pigweed. Woody plants include black willow, sandbar willow, false indigo, river grape, frost grape, and trumpet creeper. American Crow, Black and Turkey Vultures, Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Great Blue Heron, and Green-backed Heron feed along the shoreline.

RIVERBANK

Riverbanks of the islands are most evident at the heads but are also found on the sides of the islands where erosion is severe. Manchester 2 has an extensive riverbank at the head of the island made of hardened clay and silt that is more stable than the banks of the other islands. Northern Rough-Winged Swallows, a colony of Bank Swallows, and Belted Kingfishers were observed nesting in the steep banks on Manchester 2 near the head of the island.

TABLE 1. Approximate Habitat Acreage

Island	EO	LO	FB	US	RB
Brush Creek	--	<1	14	02	<1
Manchester 1	--	04	19	04	<1
Manchester 2	04	38	70	02	01

Key: EO = early oldfield LO = late oldfield FB = forested bottomland US = unconsolidated shoreline RB = riverbank

TABLE 2. Results of survey conducted during breeding Season of 1995.

Breeding Season Residents	M1	M2	BC
Great Blue Heron	--	X	** (6-14)
Green-backed Heron	--	X	--
Wood Duck*	--	X	--
Black Vulture*	--	X	--
Turkey Vulture*	--	X	--
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	--
American Kestrel*	--	X	--
Killdeer	--	X	--
Spotted Sandpiper	** (5-4, 9-2)	X	** (9-3)
American Woodcock	** (7-21)	--	--
Mourning Dove	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X	X	X
Eastern Screech-Owl	--	X	X
Great Horned Owl	** (3-9)	** (5-27, 9-30)	--

Breeding Season Residents	M1	M2	BC
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X
Belted Kingfisher*	X	X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	X	X	X
Downy Woodpecker*	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker*	X	X	X
Northern Flicker*	X	X	X
Pileated Woodpecker*	X	X	X
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher*	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird*	X	X	X
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	--	X	--
Bank Swallow*	--	X	--
Blue Jay	X	X	X
American Crow	X	X	X
Carolina Chickadee	X	X	X
Tufted Titmouse	X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X
Carolina Wren*	X	X	X
House Wren*	X	X	X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	X	X	X
Wood Thrush	X	X	X
American Robin	X	X	X
Catbird*	X	X	X
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X
European Starling*	X	X	X
White-eyed Vireo	X	X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo*	X	X	X
Blue-winged Warbler	X (5-27)	X (5-27)	--
Yellow-throated Warbler	X	X	X
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X
Yellow-breasted Chat	X	X	--
Scarlet Tanager	X	X	X
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X
Rufous-sided Towhee*	X	X	X
Song Sparrow	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X
Northern Oriole	X	X	X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X
Total summer residents	45	54	43

M1, M2, and BC represent Manchester 1, Manchester 2, and Brush Creek Island, respectively.

* = nesting confirmed

** = recorded infrequently; date of record in parenthesis

X = recorded on all survey dates; 5-27, 5-29, 5-31, 6-14, 6-24, 6-29, 7-8, 7-21, and 7-29.

TABLE 3. Results of survey conducted during the spring and fall of 1995.

Transients (spring and fall)	M1	M2	BC
Pied-billed Grebe	--	X (9-17)	--
Double-crested Cormorant	X (5-4)	X (5-4, 9-17)	X (9-3)
Great Egret	--	X (9-17)	--
Red-breasted Merganser	--	X (5-4)	--
Osprey	X (9-2)	--	X (9-3)
Ring-billed Gull	X (3-9)	--	--
Caspian Tern	X (9-2)	X (5-4)	--
Chimney Swift	X (5-27)	X (6-14)	X (5-27)
<i>Empidonax</i> Flycatcher (spp.)	--	X (9-30)	--
Purple Martin	--	X (5-27)	--
Tree Swallow	--	X (5-4, 5-27)	--
Barn Swallow	--	X (5-4)	--
Brown Creeper	X (3-9)	--	--
Tennessee Warbler	X (5-4)	--	--
Northern Parula	X (5-4)	X (5-4)	--
Yellow Warbler	X (5-4)	X (5-4)	--
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	X (5-4)	--
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X (5-4)	X (5-4)	--
Black-throated Green Warbler	--	X (9-30)	--
Palm Warbler	--	X (5-4)	--
Black-and-white Warbler	X (5-27, 7-21)	X (9-17, 9-30)	X (5-27)
Ovenbird	X (5-4, 5-27)	X (5-4)	X (5-4)
Hooded Warbler	--	X (9-30)	--
White-throated Sparrow	X (3-9, 5-4)	--	--
Dark-eyed Junco	X (3-9)	--	--
Common Grackle	X (5-27)	X (6-14)	X (6-14)
House Finch	X (5-4, 5-27)	X (5-27)	--
Total transients	17	22	06
Total species (Tables 1 & 2)	62	76	49

X = species recorded on date indicated in parenthesis

DISCUSSION

A total of 83 species was recorded from Manchester 1, Manchester 2, and Brush Creek Island of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge in Lewis County, Kentucky, from March through September 1995. The four habitats described are invaluable for feeding, nesting, and roosting. Nine species found on the islands are on the KSNPC Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern list, along with five species of woodpeckers, Great Horned and Eastern Screech-Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and both species of vultures that nest in Kentucky. A breeding bird survey from April through June would help clarify nesting, especially birds that were either seen during peak breeding season or were seen only sporadically in early spring. The diversity of birds and notable nesting species make the islands an excellent place to study lowland, riparian birds of northern Kentucky.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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A SURVEY OF WINTER BIRDS IN CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

STEPHEN J. STEDMAN
BARBARA H. STEDMAN

INTRODUCTION

In response to a request by personnel at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (CGNHP), we volunteered to conduct a survey of birds within the park during the winter of 1994-95. From December 23, 1994, to February 22, 1995, Barbara H. Stedman conducted 12 transects to survey the winter birds of the park, while Stephen J. Stedman assisted with one transect and analyzed the results of the survey.

STUDY SITE

All transects conducted during this survey lie within CGNHP, which is comprised of about 8,100 hectares (20,000 acres) in Bell and Harlan counties, Kentucky; Lee County, Virginia; and Claiborne County, Tennessee. Elevation in the park ranges from 340-1075 m (1120-3500 ft). Mature deciduous forest is the dominant habitat in the park and therefore the dominant habitat through which most of the transects run. However, the habitat at Hensley Settlement, a 30-hectare (75-acre) cleared area, is composed of pastures and fields of primarily grasses. Most small streams in the park do not always flow year-round, but they were flowing at moderate rates during the study period. Elevation, habitat, and availability of water affect bird populations and, consequently, censuses of birds.

METHODS

We conducted this survey of winter birds using the same method of data collection that was used in a survey of breeding birds conducted within CGNHP during 1978 and 1979 by Davis *et al.* (1980) and supplemented by surveys conducted there in the early 1990s (Davis and Williams 1993; Davis pers. comm.). Davis and co-workers used the transect method to survey the park's avifauna; *i.e.*, they walked trails and primitive roads at a rate of 1.6-2.4 kph (1-1.5 mph) counting and recording all birds heard and seen. This

method results in data which can be used as indices of the relative abundance of species detected; best results occur when 40 or more registrations of each species are obtained during a set of transects (Bibby *et al.* 1992).

As much as possible we retraced the 12 transects described by Davis *et al.* (1980), but some modifications were necessary as a result of changes in trails and roads that occurred since 1979. Two transects that we conducted did not precisely replicate the route censused by earlier workers: 1) the Visitor Center Loop was slightly modified to accommodate changes in trails and roads occurring since 1979, though the overall changes were so minor that data resulting from censusing the transect in 1978 and 1979 are probably roughly comparable to data obtained in 1995; 2) the Lewis Hollow-Woodson Gap transect was considerably modified because of the loss of the Woodson Gap Trail during the 1980s; data obtained from this transect in 1995 are not comparable to data obtained along the transect in earlier years. We also conducted two transects by reversing the direction in which they were conducted by Davis *et al.* (1980): 1) the Pinnacle to Saltpeter Cave transect; and 2) the Shillalah Creek transect. Road construction and the logistics of transportation dictated these reversals. We conducted the remaining eight transects in a manner essentially identical to the manner used to conduct them in earlier years. It should be noted that the Hensley Settlement census is not a true transect census but is rather a plot census.

The 12 transects are described below; distances, walking times, and other data are provided (Table 1):

1. Visitor Center Loop: start at the end of the bicycle trail nearest Middlesboro, proceed to the Visitor Center parking lot, take the Fitness Trail over the ridge to the old road which leads to a cemetery, go left on the old road past Barnett Park to the Bicycle Trail, and then return to the Visitor Center. This transect is slightly altered from the one described by Davis *et al.* (1980).
2. Tri-State Trail (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
3. Sugar Run Trail (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
4. Campground, Nature Loop, and Honey Tree Loop (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
5. Ridge Trail from Saltpeter Cave to Pinnacle parking lot (reversal of transect described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
6. Lewis Hollow picnic area to Ridge Trail to Gibson Gap (deviates from description by Davis *et al.* 1980) because Woodson Gap Trail stopped being maintained in the 1980s).
7. From Mile Post 9 (measured from Pinnacle parking lot) via Gibson Gap Trail to the Campground (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
8. Martin's Fork Cabin Loop (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
9. Hensley Settlement (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980); not a true transect. Davis *et al.* (1980).
10. Shillalah Creek Road (reversal of transect described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
11. Brush Mountain Trail (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).
12. Ridge Trail from Chadwell Gap to White Rocks (as described by Davis *et al.* 1980).

In order to census the 12 transects with maximum efficiency, we became familiar with them by walking all but one during several visits to the park in the fall of 1994. In this manner we learned which transect routes could be replicated and which required minor or major modification. As a result of these advanced preparations and excellent logistical support from park personnel, we were able to conduct all 12 transects during the winter of 1994-1995.

RESULTS

Barbara Stedman spent about 35 hours and walked about 85 km (53 mi.) to census the 12 transects involved in this survey of birds in CGNHP. She conducted ten transects between January 8, 1995, and January 19, 1995, thus compressing the period during which most of the data were collected and thereby reducing bias caused by uncontrollable variables, such as weather. She registered 786 individuals (22.4/hour; 9.2/km [14.8/mi]) of 42 species, including 31 permanent residents and 11 winter residents (Table 2). In addition, she recorded a permanent resident, Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*), and a winter resident, Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), during the course of her visits in January and February 1995 but not on one of the transects.

If Bibby *et al.* (1992) are correct in stating that maximum reliability of data occurs when 40 or more registrations of each species are obtained, then reliable indices of relative abundance were achieved for six (14%) species, while presumably less reliable data resulted for the remaining 36 (86%) species. Clearly, the number of transect hours and miles that would be required to accumulate 40 registrations of some of the uncommon and rare species, such as Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), in CGNHP is quite large. For practical reasons, it may never be possible to census enough transects in one season to accumulate the data required for total reliability. Thus, despite the fact that only 14% of species were detected frequently enough to attain 40-registrations, the results of the survey of 1994-1995 are probably as reliable as are possible.

The acquisition of winter data from the same transects conducted during the breeding season by Davis *et al.* (1980) allows for comparison of numbers of permanent resident species registered in winter with numbers of permanent residents registered during the breeding season. While such a comparison probably should not be used to search for trends in species numbers which might have occurred from 1978-1979 to 1994-1995 because of the different seasons involved, it may be used for other purposes. This comparison is especially useful in showing differences in the use of high elevation habitat by permanent residents between summer and winter. The permanent resident which displays the most pronounced difference in numbers at high elevations between summer and winter is the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (Table 2; Davis *et al.* 1980), although it is also considerably less common at lower elevations during winter than during summer.

The reason for the change in the distribution of small permanent resident species between summer and winter is probably altitudinal migration. Small permanent resident species like the towhee benefit from the less rigorous winter conditions occurring at lower elevations, so they migrate to lower elevations in fall and return to higher elevations in late winter and spring. Larger species presumably withstand the effects of rigorous weather better than smaller species and, consequently, do not need to avail themselves of altitudinal migration as much as small species. The Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) is a good example of a large permanent resident species which is at least as common at higher elevations in CGNHP during winter as during summer.

Perhaps the most important consequence of the survey was to acquire data reflecting the effects of elevation on the overall bird population occurring in CGNHP during winter. Transects conducted at lower elevations, such as the Visitor Center Loop and the Campground Loop (Table 2), resulted in the registration of far more individuals per kilometer of trail or hour of walking than transects conducted at higher elevations, such as the transect between Chadwell Gap and White Rocks (Table 2). Furthermore, some transects include coverage of both high and low elevations. When data from the high elevation sections of these transects are separated from data from the low elevation sections (Tables 3 and 4), it becomes clear that higher numbers of individuals and species were registered at

low elevations than at high elevations; this was especially true of the Lewis Hollow to Gibson Gap transect (Table 3). Altitudinal stratification of wintering bird communities is not a new phenomenon, but it is one that has not been previously documented within CGNHP. The present survey provides that documentation.

DISCUSSION

The 42 species we recorded on the 12 transects (plus two species recorded during the survey period but not on a transect) may seem like a low total, but we believe it is probably about what can be expected to occur during most winters in CGNHP, especially when northern finch species are scarce. The general uniformity of forest habitat and the relative absence of aquatic habitat in the park no doubt contribute to the low number of species wintering there.

The total number of individuals recorded on the 12 transects may also seem low, but the scarcity of birds on the overall survey is primarily a result of low densities of birds in areas at higher elevations; areas at lower elevations generally support densities of wintering birds typical of the surrounding region. It should be noted, however, that numbers of Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) at lower elevations were notably higher than numbers occurring at lower elevations during the summer. Lack of deciduous foliage during the study period may have made this and some other species more detectable than they would be during summer and partly account for their abundance on the transects conducted in winter (Davis pers. comm.).

We registered moderately large numbers of Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) on the survey. Perhaps these results were partly caused by a good mast crop during 1994. Gallinaceous species were especially likely to occur in areas where mast-bearing trees, rhododendron thickets, and large rock outcrops were simultaneously present. It is our impression that the populations of gallinaceous species in CGNHP during the winter of 1994-1995 were denser (but not larger) than populations of those species we have encountered in the past in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Mark Gudlin, small-game biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, reported to us that in most areas of Tennessee the grouse population was large during the winter of 1994-1995, based on preliminary results of hunter surveys that he coordinates. He indicated that the numbers we encountered at CGNHP indicate a very dense population of grouse (pers. comm.).

We encountered fewer species of birds of prey and registered smaller numbers of those species than we expected. Reasons for the paucity of raptors on the transects remain unclear.

The winter of 1994-1995 was not a good one for boreal invaders in the southeast, and the results of our survey reflect this fact. Of the northern finches that periodically winter in this region, we encountered only the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) — just one bird on one transect late in the winter; no Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) or Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) were registered. Furthermore, no Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) or other northern irruptive species were registered.

Data collected at Hensley Settlement should probably not be added to or compared with data collected on the true transects, if data from this survey are ever rigorously analyzed; in the tables included with this report, we have included the Hensley data with the data from other transects for the sake of convenience and because the Hensley data were included in the breeding season data presented by Davis *et al.* (1980). We add the following impression: numbers of bird species and numbers of individuals at Hensley Settlement

TABLE 1. Transect Data for a Survey of Winter Birds in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (1994-95).

Transect#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Observer	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS	BHS SJS
Date	1-12	1-8	1-9	1-13	1-9	2-22	1-19	1-11	1-10	1-10	1-18	12-23
Time Started	0820	0925	0955	0804	1150	0855	0820	0935	1150	0905	0912	0920
Time Ended	1030	1125	1145	1104	1320	1210	1330	1315	1353	1145	1212	1430
Total Hours	2.2	2.0	1.8	3.0	1.5	3.25	5.2	3.7	2.0	2.7	3.0	5.2
Km	4.0	2.2	4.0	3.2	2.9	6.7	14.4	12.8	3.2	7.2	14.4	9.6
Miles	2.5	1.4	2.5	2.0	1.8	4.2	9.0	8.0	2.0	4.5	9.0	6.0
Sky	high fog	pclo	pclo	mclo	cle	pclo	over cast	mclo	cle	cle	mclo	over cast
Wind	0	0-10	0	0	0-10	0	0-5	0-15	0-10	0-10	0-15	5-20
Start Temp. (F)	52	27	35	45	32	30	38	38	38	26	42	35
Snow Cover (inches)	0	1.0	2.0	0	3.0	1.0	0	0.1	0.2	1.0	0	0
Low Elevation (ft.)	1140	1700	1120	1260	2260	1360	1300	2950	3280	1500	2550	3120
High Elevation (ft.)	1320	2000	2260	1500	2600	2800	3100	3380	3340	3280	2850	3450

Key to Transects:

1. Visitor Center Loop
2. Tri-State Trail
3. Sugar Run Trail
4. Campground, Nature Loop, Honey Tree Loop
5. Ridge Trail from Saltpeter Cave to Pinnacle parking lot
6. Lewis Hollow picnic area to Ridge Trail to Gibson Gap*
7. Mile Post 9 via Gibson Gap Trail to campground
8. Martin's Fork Cabin Loop
9. Hensley Settlement
10. Shillalah Creek Road from Hensley Settlement to Rt. 988
11. Brush Mountain Trail
12. Ridge Trail from Chadwell Gap to White Rocks

*Differs substantially from route of Davis *et al.* (1980)

TABLE 2. Total Individuals Registered on a Survey of Winter Birds in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (1994-95).

Transect*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Tot
Species**													
Turkey Vulture	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Ruffed Grouse	--	1	3	--	2	6	7	4	--	1	5	3	32
Wild Turkey	--	--	--	1	--	4	2	2	--	4	1	--	14
Killdeer	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Rock Dove	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Mourning Dove	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2
Barred Owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	--	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	--	1	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	4
Downy Woodpecker	8	1	1	7	3	4	3	1	--	2	1	1	32
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	--	--	1	1	--	12
Northern Flicker	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	2	3	1	2	4	1	1	3	2	1	23
Blue Jay	4	1	--	4	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	10
American Crow	4	2	1	3	2	--	--	1	3	2	--	--	18
Common Raven	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Carolina Chickadee	22	8	15	24	4	18	9	6	--	12	6	2	126
Tufted Titmouse	9	3	3	11	2	8	6	2	--	4	6	--	54
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	4	1	8	3	4	4	--	--	1	1	--	32
Brown Creeper	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	--	--	--	1	--	12
Carolina Wren	14	2	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	24
Winter Wren	1	--	2	3	1	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	10	20	18	8	13	9	6	2	20	6	--	126
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	1	1	4	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	11
Eastern Bluebird	1	--	--	1	--	1	1	--	1	--	1	--	6
Hermit Thrush	--	1	--	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
American Robin	21	10	--	8	--	1	3	7	--	26	--	--	76
Cedar Waxwing	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
European Starling	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16	7	2	17	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	43
Northern Cardinal	8	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	10
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Song Sparrow	4	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
White-throated Sparrow	9	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Dark-eyed Junco	--	--	--	8	--	3	2	2	--	1	--	1	17
Common Grackle	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Purple Finch	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
House Finch	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
American Goldfinch	6	--	--	4	3	24	5	--	2	--	--	--	44
Total	165	59	56	147	33	97	64	33	9	82	32	9	786

*See Methods section or Key to Transects in Table 1.

TABLE 3. Comparison of Bird Species and Numbers below and above Skylight Cave on Transect 6 (Lewis Hollow to Gibson Gap).

Km surveyed	Number Below	Number Above
Species	1.9	4.8
Ruffed Grouse	0	6
Wild Turkey	0	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0
Downy Woodpecker	3	1
Hairy Woodpecker	0	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	0
Carolina Chickadee	14	4
Tufted Titmouse	6	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	0
Brown Creeper	1	0
Winter Wren	1	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0
Eastern Bluebird	1	0
Hermit Thrush	2	0
American Robin	0	1
Dark-eyed Junco	2	1
Purple Finch	1	0
American Goldfinch	2	22
Total Individuals	54	43
Total Species	15	9

TABLE 3. Comparison of Bird Species and Numbers below and above Gibson Gap intersection with Ridge Trail on Transect 7 (Mile 9 to Gibson Gap to Campground).

Km surveyed	Number Below	Number Above
Species	8	6.4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	0
Ruffed Grouse	4	3
Wild Turkey	0	2
Barred Owl	0	1
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	2	0
Downy Woodpecker	3	0
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	2
Blue Jay	1	0
Carolina Chickadee	5	4
Tufted Titmouse	2	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	0
Brown Creeper	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	2
Eastern Bluebird	1	0
American Robin	0	3
Northern Cardinal	1	0
Dark-eyed Junco	0	2
American Goldfinch	3	2
Total Individuals	37	27
Total Species	14	12

seemed exceptionally low, but we do not have enough experience with this area to know if exceptional conditions prevailed there during the winter of 1994-1995. Thus, the Hensley data may be quite "normal."

CONCLUSIONS

Our survey provides baseline abundance data for 42 species of birds that winter within CGNHP. Our data show that numbers of some small permanent resident species, particularly the Rufous-sided Towhee, differ markedly between breeding and winter seasons at high elevation in the park. The data also display the effects of elevation on the overall wintering bird populations within the park, with areas at high elevations harboring far fewer birds per transect unit surveyed than areas at low elevations.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Davis, W. H., C. K. Smith, J. E. Hudson, and G. Shields. 1980. Summer birds of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. *The Kentucky Warbler* 56: 43-55.
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FOURTH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

LEE K. MCNEELY, SECRETARY

This report is the fourth from the Kentucky Bird Records Committee [hereafter KBRC] and covered actions completed during the calendar years 1994 and 1995. Members serving on the committee during this period were Fred Loetscher, Burt Monroe, Jr., Mike Stinson, and the current committee of Blaine Ferrell, Wayne Mason, Lee McNeely [secretary], Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Anne Stamm. The stated purpose of the KBRC is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, maintain the documentation for these records, and to publish a summary of the committee's deliberations.

In 1994 and 1995 there were three rounds of circulation through the KBRC consisting of 16 individual records. Fourteen of these cases were finalized, while two remain unresolved at this point.

Accepted records:

Podiceps grisegena. RED-NECKED GREBE. [#95-1] (2 birds) February 16, 1994, Triplett Creek, Morehead, Rowan County (FB, many other observers).

Podiceps grisegena. RED-NECKED GREBE. [#95-2] (2 birds) February 20-21, 1994, Lexington Reservoirs, Lexington, Fayette County. (JC, KC, LM) [photographed].

Podiceps grisegena. RED-NECKED GREBE. [#95-3] March 12-April 16, gravel pit south of Petersburg, Boone County. (LM, JC, KC, TS).

Aechmophorus occidentalis. WESTERN GREBE [#94-1] November 27, 1993, Markland Dam, Gallatin County (LM, JC, KC) [first Kentucky record supported by photograph].

Podiceps nigricollis. EARED GREBE. [#95-5] April 4, 1993, Brown Power Plant ash pond near Dix Dam, Mercer County (JK, PK).

Oceanodroma castro. BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL [#95-13] Late July, 1993, Found dead in yard along the Kentucky River in southeastern Anderson County (DS, TA, DY) [Specimen, specimen photographs, first Kentucky record].

Branta bernicla. BRANT [#95-10] November 7, 1993, Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County (BPB, DE, many other observers) [Photographed, first Kentucky record].

Falco columbarius. MERLIN [#95-4] December 18, 1993, Petersburg, Boone County (NK, DJ, CS).

Numenius phaeopus. WHIMBREL [#93-11] May 22, 1993, southwest of Hickman, Fulton County (JB, PB, several other observers) [Fourth Kentucky record].

Calidris ferruginea. CURLEW SANDPIPER [#95-11] July 9-11, 1994, McElroy Lake, Warren County (BPB, RK, several other observers) [Photographed, first Kentucky record].

Sterna nilotica. GULL-BILLED TERN [#95-12] August 27-28, 1994, Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County (BPB, many other observers) [Photographed, first fully-documented record].

Ixoreus naevius. VARIED THRUSH [#94-2] December 19-20, 1993, Mayo Lane, Oldham County (JKr, FK, DN, KC1) [Second Kentucky record, sight only].

Observers: Theresa Anderson (TA), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), Joe Caminiti (JC), Kathy Caminiti (KC), Kathryn Clay (KC1), Diane Ebel (DE), David Jensen (DJ), Ned Keller (NK), J.W. Kemper (JK), Patricia Kemper (PK), Robert Klapheke (RK), Frank Krull (FK), John Krull (JKr), Lee McNeely (LM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Denny Sabree (DS), Charlie Saunders (CS), Tommy Stephens (TS), David Yancy (DY).

Rejected records:

Accipiter gentilis. NORTHERN GOSHAWK [#95-6] January 14, 1993, Grays Branch Road south of Greenup Dam, Greenup County. Documentation was considered

not definitive.

Myriarchus crinitus. GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER [#95-7] February 26, 1995, Crestmoor Woods Nature Park, Bowling Green, Warren County. Documentation does not rule out other *Myriarchus* flycatchers, voice description not definitive for an early state record.

The current official Kentucky list stands at 350 species (14 of which are by sight only), with the Band-rumped Storm-petrel, Brant, Curlew Sandpiper, and Gull-billed Tern added since the last report. All records of birds on the mandatory Review List should be sent to the Secretary of the KBRC, Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41105.

FIELD NOTES

Greater White-fronted Goose in Taylor County

On the afternoon of November 28, 1995, a Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*, was discovered during a seasonal waterfowl study being conducted at City Lake, Campbellsville, Ky. The goose was found dead in a shallow raceway connecting an upper 10-acre section of the lake to a lower 54-acre section. Apparently the bird was wounded by a gunshot to the right forewing which forced it to seek refuge at City Lake. We suspect this individual was travelling in a flock of Canada Geese, *Branta canadensis*, migrating through the area within a week of the survey. Body markings for the species included distinctive black blotching or striping on the belly, an overall grayish body, and conspicuous white face. The bird measured 70 cm in length (27.6"; tip of bill to tip of tail) with a wing span of 136 cm (53.5")

While this species has become increasingly more common throughout Kentucky over the past decade (Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., *personal communication*), it is still considered a midwestern species migrating chiefly through the Great Plains states (*Birds of Kentucky*, Monroe 1994). This is evidenced by the paucity of observations of White-fronted Geese west of the Ballard County Wildlife Management Area. Only six records (twelve total individuals) exist for the species in this portion of the Commonwealth (*Birds of Kentucky*, Monroe 1994). Also of significance is that the sighting constitutes a county record for the Greater White-fronted Goose in Taylor County, KY (Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., *personal communication*).

--RICHARD K. KESSLER AND JEREMY DALE, Department of Biology,
Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

First Kentucky Record for Common Black-headed Gull

On November 15, 1995, I discovered an adult Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) at the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville, Jefferson County. The bird was in the company of a large collection of gulls that were resting and feeding below the upper gates of McAlpine Dam. This mixed flock contained probably more than 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), at least 400 Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*), three Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), and one Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixan*). The Common Black-headed Gull was first observed as it perched with a large group of mostly Bonaparte's Gulls on a shelf of the outer fossil beds, and studied as it fed in the rapids flowing downstream from the partially open dam.

The Common Black-headed Gull was intermediate in size between the many nearby Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls. Overall it was similar to the Bonaparte's in plumage, although the back color was a slightly lighter shade of gray. A prominent dark spot was noticeable behind each eye, and a light gray smudge extended from around each eye to meet on the crown. The bird's legs were brilliant blood red in color, and the bill was bright red with some dark color in the distal one-third. The bill was also proportionately longer than those of nearby Bonaparte's Gulls. In flight, the wing pattern was similar to a Bonaparte's Gull from above, but from below, all outer primaries except the first were predominantly charcoal gray, and the inner primaries gradually became paler. In addition, the primary underwing coverts appeared to be light grayish. This pattern made the bird very noticeable in flight if lighting conditions were good. The tail was entirely white.

The gull was observed daily through the morning of November 23, 1995, and it was seen by a large number of birders during its week-long stay. I obtained color photographs of the bird, clearly showing identifying characteristic on November 18, 1995 (see cover of this issue). This represents the first documented occurrence of Common Black-headed Gull in Kentucky, although most surrounding states have one to several records.

--BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Westport Road, Louisville, 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

North American Migration Count

Anyone wishing to conduct a spring bird count in conjunction with the North American Migration Count should contact Kentucky's State Coordinator, Lee McNeely, at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005 (Phone: 606-586-7520). The North American Migration Count is entering its fifth year and is designed to provide a one-day picture of bird migration across the continent.

Counts are conducted on a countywide basis in a format similar to Mid-winter Bird Counts. The date for this year's spring count will be May 11, 1996. Six counties were rep-

resented in 1995, with a total of 154 species recorded. Any level of participation is encouraged, from one-person counts to organized group efforts.

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

Remember, the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is in service at (502) 894-9538. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. regularly updates the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. Help support this service with your reports.

K.O.S. Avian Research Grant Fund

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has initiated an Avian Research Grant Fund. Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500.00) to assist them in conducting research on birds in Kentucky should contact the Kentucky Ornithological Society Avian Research Grant Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 for a set of guidelines and an application form. Currently, three grant applications are pending.

Field Trips

Saturday, 20 April 1996 -- Slough Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County for waterbirds and migrants. Meet at McDonald's on Highway 41 in Henderson at 8:15 a.m. (CT). Bring a lunch and shoes suitable for a trek through the marsh. The leader will be Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (502) 426-8549.

Sunday, 21 April 1996 -- Mammoth Cave for spring migrants, especially woodland warblers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. (ET) at the Watermill Restaurant on Highway 70, just west of Exit 53 off I65. Bring your lunch. The leaders will be Pat and Jane Bell (502) 895-7872.

Saturday, 18 May 1996 -- Red River Gorge/Natural Bridge for Swainson's Warbler and others, plus beautiful spring wildflowers. Meet at the rest area at the Slade exit just off Mountain Parkway at 9:30 a.m. (EDT). Bring a lunch. The leaders will be Jane and Pat Bell (502) 895-7872.

Saturday and Sunday, 24-25 August, 1996 -- Jeff Wilson will lead our group to the Memphis Tennessee Water Works and other places in a search for shorebirds. During the heat of the day on Saturday, we will meet indoors for lunch and study the shorebirds we will see. Marilee Thompson is the organizer. For complete information send a SASE to Marilee 2443 Old Kentucky 144, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303.